

March 2006

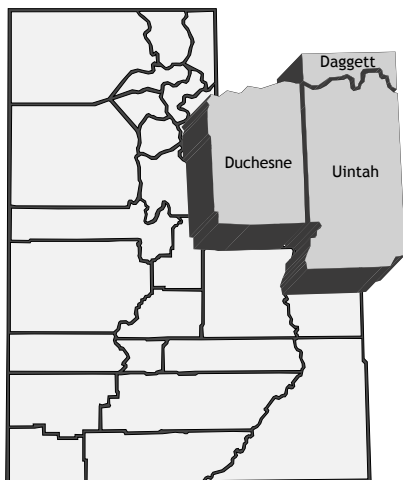
Workforce News



A publication of the Department of
Workforce Services

Uintah Basin: Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah

jobs.utah.gov



The March of the Roustabouts!

The Uintah Basin is booming – we all know that, but just how big of a boom is it? Well, in terms of demand for workers, this year's Job Vacancy Study (JVS) shows that the Uintah Basin had a job vacancy rate of 5.2 percent. That is, for every 100 jobs in the area there were roughly five vacant jobs. Of the three areas in this year's study this was the highest vacancy rate reported.

Sure there are open jobs, but what about pay? The JVS also confirms speculation about high wages for job seekers. In fact, at \$12.20 per hour, the Uintah Basin offers the same average advertised wage for job openings as Metropolitan Utah. Of individual jobs that met the study's confidentiality standards, it is not surprising that occupations related to mining and extraction make up eight of the top ten highest-paid openings.

Another measure of how much demand exists can be illustrated by describing a point of methodology of the JVS. For a region as small as the



Inside:

- ✦ Check it Out
- ✦ County News
- ✦ What's Up?



Contact the author, your regional economist, with any questions on content:

Michael Hanni
801-526-9403
MHANNI@utah.gov

(continued on page 2)

More information available online!

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoCounties.do>

The March of the Roustabouts!

(continued)

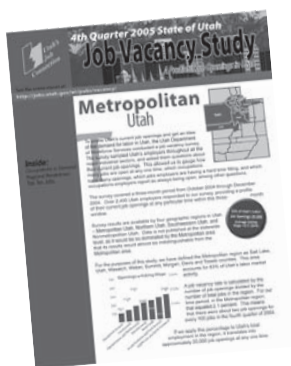
tri-county area considered the Uintah Basin in the study, it is difficult for individual occupations to reach the study's confidentiality standards in order to publish information on them. For example, in last year's study, an area similar in size to the Basin could only publish information for five individual occupations. This year in the Uintah Basin, information can be published on fourteen different occupations.

So what else does the JVS say about the kind of vacant jobs in the Basin? One thing that stands out is that jobs in the mining industry are closely related. For example, in many cases roustabouts and truck drivers were reported interchangeably. Fully 20 percent of the roustabout openings required some kind of professional license – presumably a Commercial Driver's License.

Employers in the Uintah Basin also showed a clear preference for workers with applied technology training. In contrast to the other two regions, 29 percent of the openings reported required some form of vocational education. The high vacancy rates in the mining and healthcare industries – where many occupations require vocational education – are responsible for this statistical anomaly.

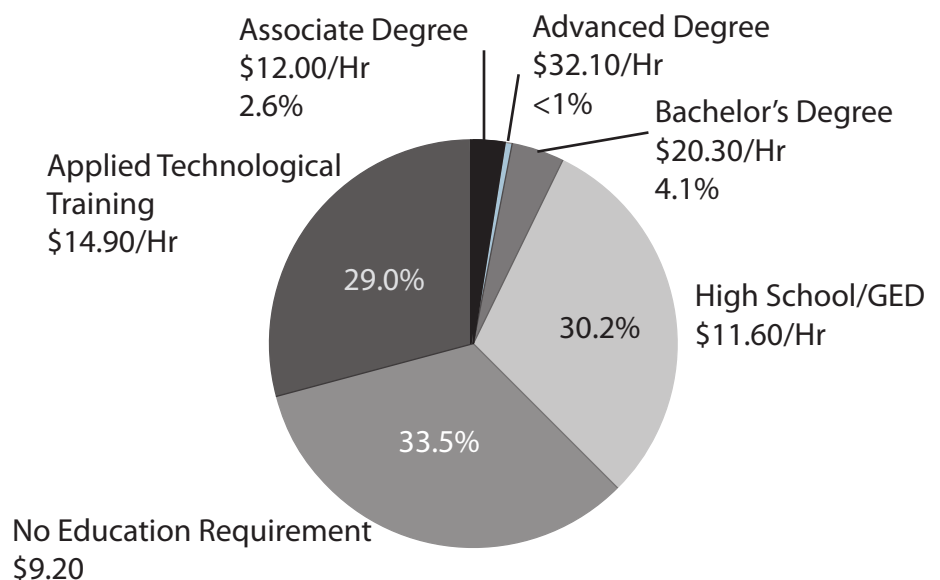
Without question, rapid job growth in the Uintah Basin's mining industry is causing significant changes to the local labor market. Luckily, this year's JVS data provides us a timely and important snapshot that allows us to quantify just how much of a boom the county is experiencing.

Check it Out



Our new Job Vacancy Study
at [http://jobs.utah.gov/
opencms/wi/pubs/jvs2005/](http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/jvs2005/).

UINTAH BASIN SHARE OF OPEN JOBS PER LEVEL OF EDUCATION



County News

Daggett County: Pipeline construction buoyed the local economy during the third quarter of 2005. This boom in construction helped employment in the county grow 7.8 percent in September over the same month last year. Some industries did register declines, in the same one-year period the accommodations industry and local government both dropped nine jobs apiece. However, in the case of accommodations, a nearly \$700,000 increase in taxable sales suggests that the industry is healthy, but is facing a tight labor market that is pricing labor beyond the industry's typical pay range. Gross taxable sales in general were very strong, increasing 152.7 percent in the third quarter. Finally, permit-authorized construction in Daggett County was noticeably stronger in the third quarter of 2005 than in the previous year. Total construction valuation rose 31.9 percent, with all permits issued for areas outside Manila.

Duchesne County: Energy-related industries continued to boom and drive the local economy in the third quarter of 2005. Compared with September of 2004, employment in mining, construction, and transportation grew by leaps and bounds – adding a combined 342 jobs over the year. Nearly every industry in the county showed an increase in year-over comparisons. Interestingly, the size of the county's covered agriculture sector has doubled in the year – with 35 jobs directly associated with this industry. The other county's other economic indicators are largely in-sync with this strong job growth. Gross taxable sales in the third quarter grew 22.1 percent over the same quarter in 2004. The sectors reporting the strongest growth were: mining business investment purchases, wholesale durable goods sales, and food store sales. Not to be outdone, permit-authorized construction in the county more than doubled, with total construction valuation increasing 110 percent over last year.

Uintah County: Like her Basin sisters, Uintah County also enjoyed a very strong third quarter. In the year between September 2004 and 2005 the county added 812 jobs, with 476 of those coming in the mining industry alone. The latest data reveals that nearly every industry in the county posted year-over employment gains. A rise in retail and wholesale trade jobs, along with gains in healthcare and real estate industries, appears to point to the rising demands of a growing population. Trumpeting this strong growth are the county's other economic indicators. Gross taxable sales continued to show unbounded growth in the third quarter, increasing 30.9 percent over the same period last year. Wholesale and retail trade sales in particular were strong, each increasing by more than \$15 million over the year. Business investment purchases – an indicator of future economic activity – were solid, but their growth has slowed somewhat from the previous quarter. Construction activity in the county, both in terms of the number of units and total valuation, was down roughly by a third in the quarter. However, the overall construction numbers remain within a historically high band.

What's Up?

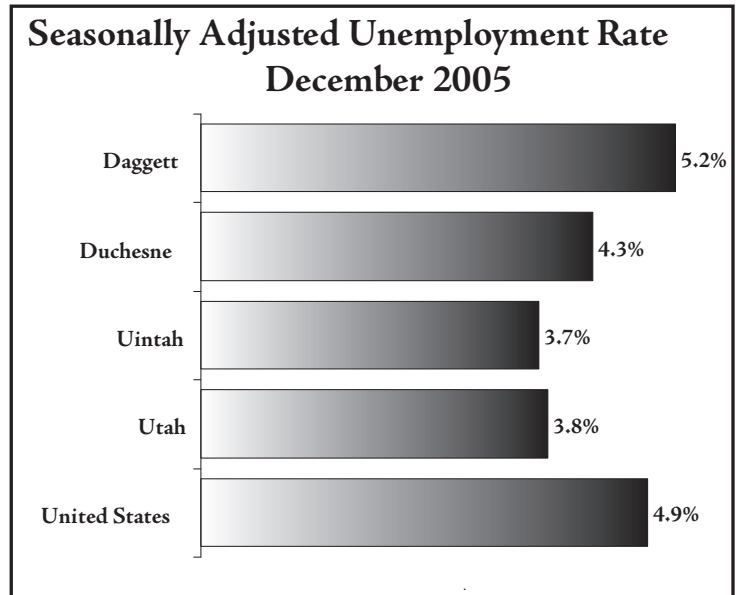
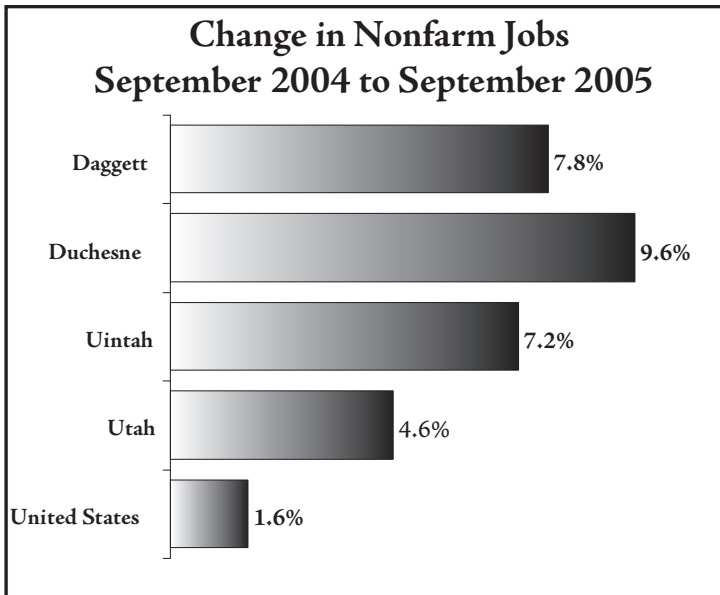
✧ Oil-Tech, Inc. and Baard Energy, L.L.C. announced that they have formed a joint venture to advance the development of liquid hydrocarbons derived from oil shale. Their new company, White River Energy, LLC will move forward with the design and construction of a patented process that will produce alternative energy products, including clean fuels, in Uintah County.

✧ The President's recently released budget includes a \$6.1 million increase to the Central Utah Project through the Interior Department, which aims to create a system of dams and aqueducts designed to bring water from the Uintah Basin to the Wasatch Front. Bush requested \$40.2 million for the project, up from \$34 million in fiscal 2006. This includes \$37.1 million for planning and construction activities, \$1.6 million for program administration and \$519,000 for mitigation and conservation activities.

✧ UBTA-UBET Communications officials announced that the merger of UBTA Communications and UBET Telecom has been finalized, allowing all customers to become members of the UBTA-UBET Communications Cooperative.

Uintah Basin: Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah

jobs.utah.gov



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

03-51UB-0306